

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Geography is a science that focuses on the spatial analysis of human/physical patterns and processes. Geographers attempt to identify the factors affecting the distribution of people and their activities on the surface of the earth and to provide meaningful solutions to problems faced by societies. This discipline is an ideal major for the liberal arts student, providing exposure to the concepts and techniques utilized in investigating environmental issues, socioeconomic problems, and planning policies.

The Geography program offers a distinctive curriculum that focuses on the study of human-environmental interaction and is premised upon a model of scientific education that integrates the natural/physical and social sciences. The program takes a place-based approach to this topic, seeking to understand in a holistic manner how cultural, political, economic, natural, and physical processes combine and interact to shape and re-shape landscapes, cities, regions, and nations through time.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) supports students to graduation using a shared advising system. CLAS students have two academic advisors with whom they should meet regularly to discuss academic and degree progress: a CLAS Academic Advisor and a major advisor.

For questions related to CU Denver Core Curriculum, CLAS, general graduation requirements, university/college academic policies, or campus resources contact:

CLAS Academic Advising

clas_advising@ucdenver.edu

Visit the CLAS Advising website [here](#)

North Classroom (NC) 1030

303-315-7100

For questions related to major requirements, major course prerequisites, or evaluation of transfer coursework in your major contact:

Geography Major Advising

[CLAS Major Advisor Contact Information](#)

Visit the department website [here](#)

North Classroom (NC) 3016

303-315-7525

GENERAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

All CU Denver CLAS students are required to complete the following minimum general graduation requirements to be eligible to apply for graduation:

1. Complete a minimum of 120 credit hours
2. Achieve a minimum 2.0 CU cumulative grade point average (GPA)
3. Complete a minimum of 45 upper-division (3000- to 4000-level) credit hours
4. Complete all CU Denver Core, CLAS, and major requirements
5. Complete a minimum of 30 CLAS credit hours with letter grades at CU Denver

*The following are **maximum** credit hours that can apply toward the minimum 120 hours required for graduation:*

- 16 credit hours Pass/Fail
- 12 credit hours of Independent Study/Directed Research
- 12 credit hours of internship credit
- 8 credit hours of physical education credit

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

Students are responsible for meeting with the major advisor to confirm major requirements. In addition to completing all CU Denver Core and CLAS requirements, students completing the Geography B.A. Degree are required to complete the following minimum program requirements:

1. Students must complete a minimum of 33 credit hours from approved courses.
2. Students must complete a minimum of 24 upper division (3000-level and above) credit hours from approved courses.
3. Students must earn a minimum grade of C- (1.7) in all courses that apply to the major and must achieve a minimum cumulative major GPA of 2.0. All graded attempts in required and elective courses are calculated in the major GPA. Courses taken using P+/P/F or S/U grading cannot apply to program requirements.
4. Students must complete a minimum of 15 credit hours of approved coursework with CU Denver faculty.
5. Only three credits of Travel Study may be counted toward graduation requirements.
6. Undergraduate students may count up to 6 credit hours of independent study or internship (any combination of GEOG 3840 Independent Study, GEOG 4840 Independent Study, GEOG 4880 Directed Research, or GEOG 3939 Internship) towards elective credit in the major as approved by the undergraduate coordinator. Students may not receive more than three credit hours per independent study section. No more than three credit hours of independent study may be taken with the same instructor or in the same term.
7. GEOG 3939 Internship: Community/Professional Experience option, but highly recommended.

LYNXCONNECT RESOURCES

Are you interested in learning about internship, study abroad, career, and research opportunities for this major? Visit the CU Denver LynxConnect, located in Tivoli Student Union (TV) Suite 339, and browse the LynxConnect [website](#) for more information.

| Degree Requirements | Credits | Notes |
|---|------------|---|
| * Course prerequisites change regularly. Students are responsible for consulting advisors and the class schedule in the student portal for prerequisite information. * | | |
| CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements | 34 - 40 | CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements |
| CLAS Graduation Requirements | 15 - 29 | CLAS Graduation Requirements |
| GEOG Major Requirements | 33 | 24 credit hours must be upper-division |
| GEOG Required Courses | | |
| GEOG 1202 Introduction to Physical Geography or ENVS 1044 & 1045 Introduction to Environmental Sciences with Lab | 3 - 4 | *Prerequisite/Corequisite: ENVS 1044 (for 1045) and ENVS 1045 (for 1044). Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Natural/Physical Science (depending on whether lab or non-lab is completed) |
| GEOG 1102 World Regions Global Context or GEOG 1302 Introduction to Human Geography | 3 | GEOG 1102 and GEOG 1302 count toward CU Denver Core Social Science |
| GEOG 2080 Introduction to Mapping and Map Analysis | 3 | |
| GEOG/ENVS 3232 Weather and Climate | 3 | *Prerequisite: C or higher in GEOG 1202 or ENVS 1042 or 1044 and 1045 |
| GEOG 3412 Globalization and Regional Development | 3 | Course can fulfill CU Denver Core International Perspectives |
| Complete one (1) Environment, Society & Sustainability Course | 3 | See department for courses. Check individual courses for prerequisites. |
| Complete one (1) Human Geography Subfield Course | 3 | See department for courses. Check individual courses for prerequisites. |
| Complete one (1) Physical Geography Subfield Course | 3 | See department for courses. Check individual courses for prerequisites. |
| Complete one (1) Techniques for Geographical Analysis Subfield Course | 3 | See department for courses. Check individual courses for prerequisites. GEOG 4080 Introduction to GIS is strongly recommended. |
| Complete two (2) General GEOG Elective Courses | 6 | GEOG 3939 Internship is strongly recommended |
| Estimated General Electives | 17 - 38 | General Elective credits will vary based on Core & CLAS Requirements. Consult with CLAS Advisor. |
| Total Minimum Credit Hours: | 120 | 45 credit hours must be upper-division |

SUGGESTED ACADEMIC PLAN OF STUDY

The following academic plan is a *suggested* pathway to completing degree requirements for this major. Academic advisors recommend students tailor this plan based on previously completed college coursework (e.g., AP, IB, CLEP, dual/concurrent enrollment, and transfer credit) and individual preferences related to course load, schedules, or add-on programs such as minors or double-majors.

| | Fall | CRS | Spring | CRS |
|--|---|------------------------|---|--|
| Year One | ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I | 3 | ENGL 2030 – Core Composition II | 3 |
| | CU Denver Core Mathematics – MATH 2830 <i>recommended</i> | 3 | CU Denver Core Humanities | 3 |
| | GEOG 1202 ^C or ENVS1044 & 1045 ^C | 3-4 | GEOG 1102 ^C or GEOG 1302 | 3 |
| | CU Denver Core Behavioral Science / First-Year Seminar | 3 | CU Denver Core Nat/Phys Science with lab ^M | 4 |
| | General Elective | 3 | General Elective | 3 |
| | Total Credit Hours | 15-16 | Total Credit Hours | 16 |
| | Year Two | GEOG 2080 | 3 | GEOG/ENVS 3232 ^{PE} |
| CLAS Communicative Skills | | 3 | CLAS Nat/Phys Science with lab ^M | 4 |
| CU Denver Core Arts | | 3 | CU Denver Core Cultural Diversity | 3 |
| CLAS Humanities | | 3 | CLAS Behavioral Science | 3 |
| CU Denver Core Social Science ^M | | 3 | General Elective | 3 |
| Total Credit Hours | | 15 | Total Credit Hours | 16 |
| Year Three | | GEOG 3412 ^C | 3 | GEOG Upper-Division Subfield/Elective Course |
| | GEOG Upper-Division Subfield/Elective Course | 3 | General Upper-Division Elective | 3 |
| | CLAS Second Language Semester I | 5 | CLAS Second Language Semester II | 5 |
| | CU Denver Core International Perspectives ^M | 3 | General Upper-Division Elective | 3 |
| | | | | |
| | Total Credit Hours | 14 | Total Credit Hours | 14 |
| Year Four | GEOG Upper-Division Subfield/Elective Course | 3 | GEOG Upper-Division Subfield/Elective Course | 3 |
| | GEOG Upper-Division Elective | 3 | GEOG Upper-Division Elective | 3 |
| | General Upper-Division Elective | 3 | General Upper-Division Elective | 3 |
| | General Upper-Division Elective | 3 | General Upper-Division Elective | 3 |
| | General Elective | 3 | General Elective | 3 |
| | Total Credit Hours | 15 | Total Credit Hours | 15 |

^M Major Course Available ^C CU Denver Core Course ^{PE} Prerequisite Enforced ^{PR} Prerequisite Recommended